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Jan. 13, 1891

~~p Cap Scott~~
p Cap ~~Hall~~

Boston Decr 21 - 1773

Sir

It has been the Expectation of many of the ~~the~~ Colonists ~~had great expectations~~ that the last Session of Parliament would have put a final end to those Greivances under which they had so long been oppressed, and against which they had so long, in Vain, Remonstrated. They expected that the Revenue Acts would have been Repealed and that they should no more have had Reason to complain of the unconstitutional exertions of Parliamentary Power: They were naturally led to form these expectations ~~by~~ from the Conduct of Administration, ~~and the favourable Representations of their Friends on your side the water~~, who lately encouraged them with assurances, that if all things remained quiet in America, these unhappy dissentions would soon terminate in a lasting Union: But how, Sir were they Surprized to find ~~they~~ had been deceived": to find that the Parliament, at the very time they expected Releif, pursued new measures for Effectually securing and inhancing these oppressive Revenues, & with this View by an Act, passed the last Session, Impowered the

Benjn Franklin Esqr

the East India Company to Ship their Teas to America. From this Act, they readily saw that they had nothing to hope from the favor of Administration, but that they rather discovered an indisposition that the Parliament should grant them any Releif; a they also looked upon the ~~Act~~ it pregnant with new grievances, paving the way to further Impositions, and in its Consequences threatning the final destruction of American Liberties. Thrown by this Idea into a State of Desperation, the United Voice of the People, not only in this Province but in New York & Pensylvania, and as far as we can learn, in all the Colonies, was that they would never suffer the Tea to be Landed, but would prefer any species of hazard and danger to a tame Submission to Measures, which if pursued must reduce them to a State of abject Slavery. ~~Perhaps it would have been Impossible for the wit of man, or the wisdom of~~ Administration Could not ~~to~~ have invented a method so effectual for raising the Spirit of the Colonies, or promoting amoung them an entire union of Sentiment. at the same

a They considered the Act as introductive of Monopolies which besides the train of Evils that attend them in a Commercial View can forever be dangerous to Publick Liberty, more especially under the direction & Influence of Government.

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Time People on your side the water have for several months been repeatedly Informing our Merchants of this manoeuvre and advising them as they regarded ~~every tie of freedom~~ their sacred rights to withstand the landing of the Teas by the most vigorous opposition.

While the minds of the People were impressed with ~~those~~ Sentiments, the Vessels arrived with the Teas, Consigned to Messrs Richard Clarke & Sons, Thomas & Elisha Hutchinson, Benjamin Faneuil & Joshua Winslow Esqrs; previous to this the Town of Boston had several Meetings, in order to ~~persuade~~ Induce the Consignees to resign their Trust, but to no purpose. and immediately upon the arrival of the Vessels aforesaid, that every measure possible might be taken to prevent Confusion & disorder, while the minds of all were ~~[illegible]~~ in great agitation, the People in this & many of the neighbouring Towns assembled in the old South ~~Church~~ meetinghouse, B to prevail ~~on~~ with the Consignees to send back the Teas and if possible to preserve ~~them~~ it from that Destruction, which the resentments of the People might justly lead them to Expect. You will see by the inclosed papers the measures they took

B (As Faneuil Hall not being capacious enough to contain the People that attended) and the Resolves they paſsed, and will wonder perhaps, that these Resolves & measures were in vain — they not only treated with the Consignees but with the owners & masters of these Veſsels, but all without succeſs. Despairing to Effectuate any method of Accomodation, after having tried all that could be devised to no purpose, they Diſsolved the Meeting, which agreable to their ~~till~~ constant & declared design ~~that time~~ had protected the Teas from destruction.

Nigh Twenty days were now paſsed since the arrival of one of the Tea Veſsels commanded by Capt Hall, at which time, according to Act of Parliament, it was in the Power of the Custom House officers to take the Teas into their own poſseſsion in order to secure the duties, there were just grounds to think that they intended to do it ~~the~~ minute the Twenty Days were expired & that they would attempt to Land them by force and over bear any opposition that might be made, by a second Effusion of Blood. Under these apprehensions, the Teas on the Evening of the 16th Instant were destroyed by a number Persons unknown and in disguise — such was the obstinacy

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of the Consignees their advisers & Coadjutors,
Such their aversion to all Conciliating Measures,
that they are almost universally Condemned; &
some even of the Court party amoung us, acknowledge
that the destruction of tho Teas must bee imputed
to these obstinate Enemies of our Liberties, who
never would Consent to any method proposed
for its preservation, & who perhaps wished to
irritate and Inflame the minds of an injured,
Oppreſsed People to measures of Violence of which
afterwards they hoped to make their own
advantages —

The House of Representatives at their
last Seſsion appointed us a Committee to write
to their Agent, in pursuance of this appoint=
=ment we have given you this Information
of the present State of our Affairs and doubt
not you will make such an Improvement
of this Intelligence as shall be most for
the Interest of this Province in particular &
of the Colonies in general We are with Respect
Yr mos hum Servts
T Cushing
S Adams
J Hancock
W Phillips

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Copy of a Letter to Dr
Franklin from the Comttee
of Correspondence Dated
Decr 21. 1773 -

T. Cushing's hand writing

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